

2013 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS MICHAUD CATTLE ALLOTMENT

This is your Annual Operating Instructions for the Michaud C&H Allotment. This Plan is part of your Term Grazing Permit as specified in Part 2, Number 8 (a) of your permit.

As part of the Terms & Conditions of your Permit, Part 2 Number 8 (i), all range improvements and maintenance on fences and water developments must be completed before cattle enter the forest. Non-use does not relieve any permittee from their range improvement maintenance responsibility.

Before livestock enter the forest, your grazing fees must be paid and notice received in this office. Failure to follow this procedure is a violation of your permit.

This year an Environmental Impact Statement has been initiated and this allotment will be highly scrutinized for management practices. Please take an active role in contributing input that will improve resource conditions.

In 2013 it will be a priority to determine carrying capacity on the Michaud Allotment. Michaud Creek Ranch has a grazing lease with FMC, but the Forest Service is not managing this area under a private land permit. Please coordinate your actual use of number of livestock along with season length to better determine your allotment's vegetation capability.

Coordinate with the BLM on season of use and management of grazing adjacent to FS land.

MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

SEASON OF USE

June 15 through September 15.

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK (COW/CALF) BY PERMITTEE

Permittee	Term	Capacity Study	Non-Use	Authorized
Michaud Creek Ranches R. Swanson	142	35	0	177

Rotation:

Enter from the north at Trail Creek. Throughout season distribute cattle to Michaud Creek and then south till 9/15.

PROPER UTILIZATION FOR ALL UNITS

Specific Standards for:

Trail Creek & Michaud Creek

Stubble Height AIZ	Allowable stubble height measurements in the AIZ :
(area between the stream and upland vegetation)	3 inches 6/1-7/15
	4 inches 7/16-8/15
	5 inches 8/16-9/30

When proper use is achieved in each grazing unit, all cattle must be cleaned from the unit. Should bank erosion of perennial streams be evident, soil displacement guidelines may also be used.

Upland Forage Utilization	Utilization Criteria
Grass and herbaceous species (% dry weight)	Utilization of upland forage species on this allotment should not exceed 50% of key species (Blue Bunch Wheat Grass and Idaho Fescue).
Shrubs (% Annual leader growth)	Utilization in the uplands will vary from 25% to 35% depending on whether it is considered as: winter range, critical winter range, or non-winter range.
Riparian Forage Utilization	Utilization Criteria
Herbaceous Utilization (AIZ)*	Utilization in the Aquatic Influence Zone at the end of the grazing period will be 50%. (e.g. poa, redtop, etc)
Stubble Height (AIZ)*	Allowable stubble height measurements in the AIZ will vary between 3 to 6 inches at the end of the grazing period depending on the time of grazing and the condition of the stream.
Stubble Height (Greenline)*	Allowable stubble height measurements, along the greenline, will be 6 inches at the end of the grazing period. (e.g. carex)
Herbaceous Utilization (Greenline)	Utilization at the greenline at the end of the grazing period will be 50% depending on the time of grazing and the condition of the stream.
% Woody Species utilization	Allowable woody utilization 40%
	Refers to short term (annual) physical disturbance of alternation of the bank by livestock trampling. Allowable disturbance shall not exceed 15%
% Cumulative Bank Disturbance (Alteration)	

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Part of good cattle management on the allotment is riding and salting to assure proper cattle distribution. Keeping cattle off "Key" areas and into areas of lesser use serves to prolong the time cattle can expect to stay in a unit. Do not salt within ¼ mile of water, roads, or meadows unless directed to do so. Riding should be done a minimum of three days per week throughout your grazing units.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Any change that deviates from this Annual Operation Instructions must be made in advance and be in writing by the District Ranger.

A Forest closure exists for any hay or straw used in association with your permit and must be certified and tagged as noxious weed or noxious weed seed free as directed by that order. Please notify our office of any noxious weed populations on your allotment, so that a crew can be sent out to map and treat them. With increasing recreation camping and OHV use we need to look at ways to discourage resource damage. At the end of the grazing season, cattle must be herded, not drifted home.

Please contact Hans Bastian at 236-7526 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffery J. Hammes

JEFFERY J. HAMMES
Westside District Ranger

NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Michaud Creek Ranches	<i>/s/ Ron Swanson</i>	4/4/13